

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4879

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, IR
SUBJ: US-IRAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 125499, (B) STATE 125797

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DCM AND ACTING SCIATT DISCUSSED AT CON-
SIDERABLE LENGTH RECENT INSTRUCTIONS
(REFTELS) WITH MANZOOR
ON MAY 21. MANZOOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR ACCEPTANCE
GOI POSITIONS ON MFN PARAGRAPH AND PLUTONIUM CLAUSE. HOW-
EVER, AS EXPECTED, HE BALKED AT THE "TIME FRAME" ASPECT OF THE
REPROCESSING PARAGRAPH. HE PROMISED MORE DEFINITIVE
GOI REPLY BEFORE END OF THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER REVIEWING BRIEFLY THE STATUS OF THE NUCLEAR BILATERAL
NEGOTIATIONS, IN WHICH MANZOOR CONFIRMED THAT ALL MAJOR PROBLEMS
CONCERNING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ITSELF HAD BEEN RESOLVED IN HIS
VIENNA DISCUSSIONS WITH NOSENZO, DCM GAVE MANZOOR TEXT OF
ACCOMPANYING NOTE. MANZOOR EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR OUR
ACCEPTANCE OF IRANIAN POSITION ON MFN PARAGRAPH AND PLUTONIUM
CLAUSE. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY THE EFFORT WHICH
WENT INTO THESE COMPROMISES. HOWEVER, HE NOTED QUICKLY
THAT THE "TIME FRAME" FEATURE REMAINS IN THE NOTE AND
EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO
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GET ACCEPTANCE OF IT. WE REVIEWED SEVERAL TIMES THE OPTIONS
(A,B,C) AND THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH WITH HIM, EMPHASIZING
THAT IN FACT IRAN'S FUTURE SPENT FUEL PROBLEM WAS FULLY
TAKEN CARE OF. ALSO, PERHAPS MORE FOR THE SAKE OF THE
RECORD, WE STRESSED THAT IN FACT, IF NONE OF THE OPTIONS
WERE AVAILABLE, REPROCESSING WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

3. MANZOOR APPEARED TO AGREE THAT THE NOTE DID TAKE CARE IN A PRACTICAL WAY OF IRAN'S PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO STORAGE AND, AT A MINIMUM, THE FUEL VALUE OF THE SPENT FUEL. HOWEVER, HE WENT ON QUICKLY TO REITERATE THAT THE REPROCESSING PARAGRAPH WAS "THE BOTTOM LINE" AND THAT IRAN, IN VIEW OF THE SHAH-PRESIDENT AGREEMENT, COULD NOT ACCEPT LIMITATIONS ON THE MFN FEATURE OF REPROCESSING. THE MUSIC AND WORDS WILL BE FAMILIAR TO THOSE WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY NEGOTIATED WITH HIM ON THIS MATTER AND WE WERE UNABLE TO BUDGE HIM. DCM TOLD HIM THAT WE DID NOT WISH AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER ON HIS PART, NOTING THAT DCM HOPED TO CALL ON ETEMAD WITHIN NEXT DAY OR TWO, AND REQUESTED A VERY CAREFUL AND SENIOR-LEVEL REVIEW OF OUR PROPOSALS. HE AGREED AND SAID HE WOULD BE BACK TO US BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK.

4. DURING OUR DISCUSSION HE, MORE IN JEST THAN SERIOUS, STATED THAT IF, IN THE PARAGRAPH FOLLOWING THE A,B, C OPTIONS, THE SENTENCE COMMENCING "FURTHERMORE, AT THAT POINT IN TIME" THE WORDS "THE PARTIES" WERE TO BE REPLACED BY "IRAN", THEN HE COULD ACCEPT THE AGREEMENT WITHOUT THE REPROCESSING PARAGRAPH. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT HE HAS REVIEWED OUR LEGISLATION AND BELIEVES THAT THERE IS INDEED MORE FLEXIBILITY IN OUR POSITION THAN INDICATED IN OUR INSISTANCE ON "THE TIME FRAME" CONDITION.

5. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MANZOOR WILL BE OVERRULED, WE ARE DOUBTFUL AND SHOULD BE LOOKING AHEAD TO OTHER POSSIBLE
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SOLUTIONS TO THIS ONE REMAINING PROBLEM. WE WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST YOUR VIEWS WHETHER THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTION IS ACCEPTABLE. PERHAPS WE COULD ELIMINATE THE TIME FRAME FEATURE IN THE REPROCESSING PARAGRAPH AND ADD THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH TO FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FORMER: "IRAN AGREES, HOWEVER, THAT IF A MORE PROLIFERATION RESISTANT METHOD FOR THE DISPOSITION OF SPENT FUEL HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE TIME ITS NUCLEAR WASTES REQUIRE TREATMENT, IT WILL USE THAT METHOD RATHER THAN EXISTING REPROCESSING METHODS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN USED BY OTHER COOPERATING STATES IN BRITISH AND FRENCH FACILITIES." FRANKLY, WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE IRANIANS WOULD ACCEPT THIS BUT IT MAY BE A WAY OUT OF THE CURRENT DILEMMA. PLEASE ADVISE.
SOONEST.

6. MANZOOR WOULD LIKE TO MAKE PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR A MEETING WITH NOSENZO. MANZOOR CAN IF NECESSARY TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, BUT WOULD PREFER TO MEET HERE. HE WILL BE AVAILABLE HERE UNTIL CIRCA 2 JUNE, WHEN HE TRAVELS TO VIENNA FOR IAEA. IF NOSENZO IS PLANNING TO ATTEND IAEA SESSION, DISCUSSIONS COULD BE HELD AT THAT TIME PRIOR TO IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING.
SULLIVAN

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